

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1708

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON CA US

SUBJ: CONFERENCE ON COMMON BORDER STATIONS

REF: STATE 230909

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM EXTAFI IN RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT TALKS BE HELD REGARDING POSSIBLE COMMON BORDER FACILITIES. QUOTE "THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS STUDIED THE MATTER CAREFULLY AND REGRETS THAT AT THIS TIME THE CONCEPT OF COMMON CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FACILITIES BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES PRESENTS A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES FOR THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING ARTICLE 5 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSIONER ACT, 1960, WHICH STATES IN PART "EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE COMMISSION, NO PERSON SHALL (A) CONSTRUCT OR PLACE WITHIN TEN FEET OF THE BOUNDARY ANY WORK OR ANY ADDITION TO A WORK." IN LIGHT OF THESE DIFFICULTIES, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A MEETING AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL." UNQUOTE.

2. US DESK OFFICER (WHITTLETON) COMMENTED THAT DESPITE NEGATIVE TONE OF NOTE, CANADIAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN GENERAL DISCUSSION TO SEE IF SOME COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WOULD BE FEASIBLE ON THE BORDER. U.S. SIDE WOULD HAVE TO REALIZE THAT CANADIANS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE COMMITMENTS, OR EVEN OFFER MUCH HOPE OF ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

ENDERS

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NNN

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